

REMARKS

The September 18, 2008 Office Action regarding the above-identified application has been carefully considered; and the claim amendments above together with the remarks that follow are presented in a bona fide effort to respond thereto and address all issues raised in that Action. Care has been taken to avoid entry of new matter. For reasons discussed below, it is believed that this case is in condition for allowance. Prompt favorable reconsideration of this amended application is requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 22-30 are allowable over the art.

Claims 16-21 have been cancelled, which should render the rejections of those claims moot.

Claims 22-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter, on the ground that they might be interpreted as encompassing software per se. The rejection noted that these claims did not recite a computer readable medium embodying the recited programs. It is respectfully submitted that claims 22-27 in fact recite 'machine' type subject matter, that is to say a system comprising calculators. To emphasize the point, the claims have been amended to recite that each program is embodied in a storage medium. The specification at several points refers to storage media containing the programming. Attention for example may be directed to paragraph [0064] of this application as published (2005/0015600). Recitations of calculators that execute respective programs from storage media are not satisfied by programming per se. Hence, system claims 22-27 are directed to patentable subject matter. Withdrawal of the rejection in view of the amendments and this explanation is earnestly solicited.

Upon entry of the above claim amendments, claims 22-30 remain active in this application, all of which should recite patentable subject and are novel and patentable over the art as noted in the Action. Applicants therefore submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, this case should now be ready to pass to issue; and Applicants respectfully request a prompt favorable reconsideration of this matter.

It is believed that this response addresses all issues raised in the September 18, 2008 Office Action. However, if any further issue should arise that may be addressed in an interview or by an Examiner's amendment, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' representative at the number shown below.

To the extent necessary, if any, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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